



ALAMEDA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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March 31, 2000

Mr. Bruce Babbitt
Secretary of the Interior
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

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CALFED Bay-Delta Program

RE: San Francisco Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program Implementation

Dear Mr. Babbitt:

The Zone Water Agency provides municipal and agricultural water supply to over 160,000 people in the eastern half of Alameda County. Over 75 percent of Zone 7's water supply is imported from the California State Water Project system. With the increasing demand for high quality, reliable water not only in our area but statewide, Zone 7 has been looking forward to the development of appropriate water recycling projects acceptable at the local level.

A report will soon be submitted to Congress by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation on the Recycled Water Master Plan for the Bay Area Regional Water Recycling Program (BARWRP). The Master Plan culminates many years of planning by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Water Resources and Bay Area water and wastewater agencies. The report represents a regional approach to implementing water recycling within the Bay Area over the next 40 years, with an initial implementation phase to be initiated immediately and completed by 2010.

Federal funding for the Master Plan has been provided through authorization of the San Francisco Area Water Reclamation Study in Title XVI of Public Law 102-575. We respectfully urge your support for continuing the federal, state and local partnership in the implementation of Master Plan recommendations. We are requesting an additional congressional appropriation of \$1 million in federal fiscal year 2001 for initiation of NEPA/CEQA compliance under the current authorization. In addition, we are requesting a new authorization and a \$9 million appropriation in year 2001 for initiation of design and construction of recommended year 2010 projects.

The Master Plan recommends implementation of a series of projects each year between now and 2010 that will provide a new water supply of 125,000 acre feet per year. The recommendations for project phasing were developed by assessing the overall value of benefits versus costs. The projects recommended for implementation by 2010 (located in five Bay area counties) represent the least costly method of serving recycled water to users because:

- Connections are made from the closest treatment plant meeting user requirements, irrespective of agency boundaries.
- Existing tertiary treatment capacities are utilized to the greatest extent practical to avoid the costs of treatment plant upgrades.
- Recycled water flows are routed together in common corridor alignments to take advantage of economies of scale provided by larger pipe sizes and shared rights of way.

The average unit cost for the near term (2010) projects is currently estimated to be approximately \$500 per acre foot of recycled water delivered. The total capital costs for implementation of the regional near-term program are currently estimated to be approximately \$735 million (in today's dollars). As previously indicated, this investment creates a system capable of supplying about 125,000 acre-feet of recycled water per year, and includes some facilities (located in regional service corridors) sized for demands projected to occur by the mid-term phase (2025).

Some local agencies have initiated implementation of the first phases of their projects. These projects are identified in the Master Plan as catalysts for Bay Area-wide water recycling. However, most local projects, and therefore the regional program, will not proceed in the near future without significant outside funding. The major driving forces for water recycling, namely water supply reliability and Bay-Delta water quality, are overwhelmingly long-term issues that individual agencies cannot typically address on their own. The Master Plan recommends, therefore, that the design and construction costs be funded by a continued partnership of federal, state and local agencies.

For federal fiscal year 2001, we respectfully request your support of the total \$10 million from Congress for BARWRP implementation.

Thank you very much for your support of this important program. If you have any questions, please contact Randy Raines, Program Coordinator, at (925) 299-6733.

Sincerely,



Dale Myers
General Manager

cc: BARWRP EMB
Steve Ritchie, CALFED
Lester Snow, USBR